

Message Text

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ORIGIN HEW-06

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DRAFTED BY NIDA:RRETKA
APPROVED BY S/NM:MFALCO
EA/RA - WLGALLAGHER
S/NM - DSOHLIN
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TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: ACUPUNCTURE TREATMENT CONTRACT

1. NIDA IS NOT IN RECEIPT OF FINAL REVISED BUDGET FROM HKG. AS A RESULT OF TELEPHONE NEGOTIATION (MARCH 21) NIDA EXPECTED HKG TO REVISE PROJECT BUDGET FROM US \$109,741 TO US \$99,500, THE APPROVED TOTAL FOR THE CONTRACT. NIDA MUST RECEIVE REVISED BUDGET IN CONJUNCTION WITH SIGNED CONTRACT. THREE SIGNED COPIES OF CONTRACT INDICATING PROJECT PERIOD ARE REQUIRED. IF HKG CANNOT REDUCE BUDGET TO US \$99,500, PLEASE INFORM NIDA SOONEST.

2. HKG PROPOSAL APPEARS TO INCLUDE FULLTIME SUPPORT FOR PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI), DR. H.L. WEN. HOWEVER, DURING RECENT VISIT BY ROBERT RETKA, NIDA LEARNED THAT PI IS WORKING ON OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS WHICH WOULD APPEAR
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PAGE 02 STATE 103793

TO PRECLUDE FULLTIME INVOLVEMENT IN ACUPUNCTURE CONTRACT. U.S. GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS PRECLUDE PAYMENT OF FULLTIME SUPPORT FOR LESS THAN FULLTIME INVOLVEMENT. PLEASE CLARIFY BY INDICATING (A) EXTENT OF PI'S ACTUAL INVOLVEMENT IN PROJECT, AND (B) NATURE OF SUPPORT ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN PI AND CONTRACTOR (DMHS). NIDA BELIEVES PI'S INVOLVEMENT ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL; CONSEQUENTLY, NIDA WILL

CONSIDER PAYMENT AT PROPOSED RATE, BUT EXTENT OF INVOLVE-

MENT MUST BE CLARIFIED AND SALARY REQUEST ADJUSTED APPROPRIATELY. FOR EXAMPLE, IF PI IS INVOLVED APPROXIMATELY 60 TIME, THEN MONTHLY SALARY RATE COULD BE 60 OF FULLTIME EQUIVALENT OR HK \$6,510/MONTH. CONVERSELY, IF PI IS ACTUALLY TO RECEIVE HK \$10,850/MONTH FOR PART-TIME INVOLVEMENT, THEN CORRESPONDING FULLTIME EQUIVALENT MUST BE DEFINED.

3. OTHER BUDGET REVISIONS MIGHT BE MADE IN EQUIPMENT COSTS (BOTH RECURRING AND NON-RECURRING) WHERE LEASING RATHER THAN PURCHASE MIGHT BE POSSIBLE.

4. NIDA RECOMMENDS THAT PATIENT SUBGROUPS E AND F (METHADONE MAINTENANCE AND METHADONE DETOXIFICATION) BE SELECTED FROM HKG CLINICS. NIDA RECOMMENDS THAT SUBGROUP E BE SELECTED FROM ADMISSIONS TO EASTERN STREET METHADONE MAINTENANCE CLINIC AND SUBGROUP F FROM VIOLET PEEL METHADONE DETOXIFICATION CENTER. RATIONALE FOR USING THESE CLINICS IS THEIR RELATIVE PROXIMITY TO HOSPITAL WHERE ACUPUNCTURE PATIENTS WILL BE TREATED. THIS POINT IS IMPORTANT SINCE NIDA FURTHER RECOMMENDS THAT ACUPUNCTURE PROJECT STAFF COLLECT ALL RESEARCH DATA ON SUBGROUPS E AND F AS WELL AS SUBGROUPS A - D IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE OBSERVER VARIATION IN DATA COLLECTION. NIDA BELIEVES THIS POINT IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO CONSIDER REDUCING SIZE OF ALL SUBGROUP SAMPLES IF NECESSARY TO ENABLE CONTRACT STAFF TO COLLECT RESEARCH DATA.

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PAGE 03 STATE 103793

5. AS DISCUSSED WITH DR. WEN, IDENTIFICATION OF SUBJECTS FOR ALL SUBGROUPS WILL TAKE PLACE DURING PROJECT MONTHS 2-7. SELECTION OF CASES FOR SUBGROUPS E AND F WILL COMMENCE WHEN TWO-THIRDS OF SUBJECTS IN SUBGROUPS A-D HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. SELECTION OF METHADONE COMPARISON SUBJECTS SHOULD BE ON A MATCHING BASIS TO RESULT IN COMPARABLE DISTRIBUTIONS AMONG ALL SUBGROUPS WITH RESPECT TO AGE, METHOD OF TAKING DRUGS, AND CRIMINAL INVOLVEMENT. NIDA PROJECT OFFICER, DR. BARRY BROWN, WILL CONTACT PI SEPARATELY REGARDING THESE AND OTHER TECHNICAL ISSUES.

6. QUESTIONS RAISED DURING RETKA'S VISIT CONCERNING CONTRACT PAYMENT PROCEDURES AND TRANSFERS OF FUNDS BETWEEN BUDGET CATEGORIES WILL BE ADDRESSED IN A SEPARATE TELEGRAM. CHRISTOPHER

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